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REVIEWS

The Unmarried Mother in German Literature, with special reference to the period 1770-1800, by OSCAR HELMUTH WERNER, PH. D. New York, Columbia University Press, 1917.

The author states (page viii) that "this dissertation was undertaken primarily to find, if possible, a more satisfactory explanation than has been given hitherto for Goethe's utilization of the theme of unmarried motherhood with its consequent infanticide in his 'Faust.' . . . The investigation was not limited, therefore, to the field of belles lettres but included all literature of the period which might have a bearing on the subject." The body of the book consists of three chapters, entitled: I. Traditional Status of the Unmarried Mother; II. The Humanitarian Revolt of the Eighteenth Century; III. The Literary Reflex of the Revolt in the Storm and Stress Period. Chapter IV is devoted to Concluding Observations, which are followed by a Bibliography and an Index.

An investigation in this field cannot well be expected to bring to light many startling new facts, as the various phases of the subject have previously been touched upon by other scholars—the salient points of Chapter III, for example, by Erich Schmidt in his *Heinrich Leopold Wagner*. The merit of the book must chiefly be sought, therefore, in its orderly arrangement and amplification of the material which serves as a setting for the literature of Storm and Stress. The bulk of this material originated in the Mannheim Contest of 1781, when von Dalberg offered a prize of 100 ducats for the best essay on the prevention of infanticide. Some four hundred contributions were received, and for a number of years subsequently numerous other essays on the subject were written and published, together with criticisms of them. In addition to these reviews, the contemporary journals gave accounts of the more striking cases of infanticide, statistics, and letters from travelers dealing with various aspects of the subject. It is this material which Dr. Werner has undertaken to collect and to study, and a Bibliography of twelve pages testifies to his industry. "With a few exceptions only the literature which could be had in this country is listed, therefore no claim to completeness of the list of productions on unmarried motherhood during this period is made." But

completeness is the chief virtue of all bibliographic lists. Even with the given qualification, the author's facilities seem to have been in some respects limited. First-hand use has been made of the *Deutsches Museum* and the *Allgemeine Deutsche Bibliothek*, but the *Neue Allgemeine Bibliothek* seems to have been inaccessible, while the *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung*, the most important critical journal of the period, is conspicuous by a single reference. An examination of the indices of these two publications would have yielded a considerable body of new material, the more important titles of which are added below:

Neue Allg. Deutsche Bibl. XII, 116: J. D. Michaelis, *Zerstreute kleine Schriften gesammelt*, 1. Lief., Jena, 1793. Contains an article entitled: "Warum hat Mose in seinem Gesetze nichts vom Kindermord? Ein Zusatz von J. D. Michaelis zu seinem mosaischen Rechte." Michaelis was one of the three judges of the Mannheim Contest. This article had previously appeared in the *Magazin der Wissenschaften und Litteratur*, Göttingen, Volume IV, 2, pp. 84-152, and was reviewed in *Schotts Bibliothek der neuesten juristischen Literatur*, 1786, I, 142.

Neue Allg. Deu. Bibl. XIV, 407: *Briefe über die wichtigsten Gegenstände der Menschheit. Geschrieben von R. und herausgegeben von S. T. U.* 2 Theile, Leipzig, 1794. Number XIV is entitled: "Ueber das Problem: wie es anzufangen sey, dass es keine Kindermörderinnen mehr gebe. An Herrn Justizrath W. zu O."

Neue Allg. Deu. Bibl. XIX, 36: *Freymüthige Gedanken, Wünsche und Vorschläge über den Kindermord und über die Mittel, denselben zu verhindern.* Stendal, Franz und Grosse, 1793, 78 pp. This is probably a second edition of the work listed by Werner on page 113, line 6, as the number of pages is identical.

Neue Allg. Deu. Bibl. XXI, 447: *Neue peinliche und bürgerliche Rechtsfälle. . . .* Erster Band, Zeitz und Naumburg, 1794. No. VIII: "Geschichte einer des Kindermordes verdächtigen, mit Staupenschlägen und ewiger Landesverweisung bestraften Weibsperson."

Neue Allg. Deu. Bibl. XXII, 78: *Themis und Comus, oder juristische Frucht- und Blumenlese, von einem Barden.* Leipzig, 1794. 234 pp. II. Stück: "Auch eine Untersuchung der Frage: Welches sind die ausführbarsten Mittel, dem Kindermorde Einhalt zu thun?"

Neue Allg. Deu. Bibl. xxxviii, 140: *Untersuchung, ob der Verschuldung einer Kindermörderinn die Todesstrafe angemessen ist.* Von C. A. H., Leipzig, 1798. 56 pp.

The following references are to the *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* of Jena:

1785, i, 230: *Drei Preisschriften über die Frage. . .* Mannheim, 1784. Other reviews appeared in *Allg. Deu. Bibl.* lxiii, 81 (Werner, p. 112) and in *Allgem. juristische Bibl.* v, 1, 56.

1785, ii, 6: *Nachtrag zu den Abhandlungen über die besten und ausführbarsten Mittel*, etc., Tübingen, 1785. 52 pp. Reviewed also in *Schotts Bibliothek der neuesten juristischen Litt.*, 1785, i, 15. Werner, p. 113, lists the 1782 edition, the title of which should read: . . . *über die beste ausführbarste Mittel. . .* It also has 52 pages, and the motto: *Qui vult unum, velle etiam debet alterum.*

1786, i, 417: *Unvorgreifliche Betrachtungen über die drey zu Mannheim gekrönte Schriften von der besten ausführbaren Verhütung des Kindermords.* Dresden und Leipzig, 1785. 64 pp. Reviewed also in *Schotts Bibliothek*, 1785, ii, 374; *Tübinger gelehrte Anzeigen* 1786, p. 119; *Neue Leipziger gelehrte Zeitungen* 1785, iv, 2443.

1786, i, 433: Birnstiel, F. H., *Versuch, die wahre Ursache des Kindermords aus der Natur- und Völkergeschichte zu erforschen und zugleich daraus einige Mittel zur Verhinderung dieses Staatsgebrechens zu schöpfen.* Frankfurt und Leipzig, 1785. 204 pp. Reviewed also in *Tüb. gel. Anz.* 1785, p. 746; *Neueste kritische Nachrichten*, Greifswald, 1786, p. 216; *Schotts Bibliothek* 1786, i, 167.

1788, i, 290: *Statistische und politische Bemerkungen bey Gelegenheit einer Reise durch die vereinigten Niederlande.* 1788. 121 pp. Anonymous, but written by von Barkhausen, and previously published in letter form in the *Deutsches Museum*, 1781, ii, 277. The fact is brought out that from 1732 to 1788 only 79 persons had been executed in the Netherlands for infanticide, and that these all belonged to the lowest classes. The exceedingly low annual average is attributed in part to the existence of the Foundling House in Amsterdam.

1788, iv, 737: Pfeil, J. G. B., *Preisschrift von den besten. . . Mitteln. . .* Leipzig, 1788. Reviewed also in *Allg. D. Bibl.*

LXXXVIII, 90 (Cf. Werner, p. 114); *Gött. gel. Anz.* 1788, II, 1206; *Tüb. gel. Anz.* 1788, p. 489; Feder und Meiners, *Philosophische Bibl.* II, 232; *Schotts Bibl.* 1788, p. 49.

1793, I, 293: *Der Kindermord. Zur Beherzigung an alle meine Mitmenschen.* Rostock und Leipzig, 1792, 216 pp. Reviewed also in *Neue Allg. D. Bibl.* VIII, 40; *Tüb. gel. Anz.* 1793, p. 337.

J. G. Schlosser's well-known essay, *Die Wudbianer*, discussed by Werner at various places, was reviewed in the *Tüb. gel. Anz.* 1786, p. 718; *Allg. Deu. Bibl.* LXVII, 91; *Allgem. jurist. Bibl.* VI, 1, 29. It also had the distinction of being translated into Danish: *Wudbianerne, et Priisskrift af J. G. Schlosser.* Copenhagen, 1789. Cf. *Allgem. Lit. Zeit.* 1789, *Intelligenzblatt* No. 132, p. 1096.

Various other journals likewise contain articles and reviews bearing on our subject:

Journal von und für Deutschland, 1786, I, 231: "Geschichte einer Kindsmörderin in der Reichsstadt Speyer." This article, written by a citizen of Speyer named Weiss, begins as follows: "Blutschänder, Mordbrenner und Mörder zugleich, den Gesetzen nach, und doch ein Jüngling von edler Seele seyn, ist, seitdem uns der vortreffliche Meissner, ihn in seinen Skizzen nicht idealisirt, sondern dem Faden der wirklichen Geschichte pünctlich getreu, so unnachahmbar schön geschildert hat, nicht mehr Erdichtung kranker Empfindeley, ist historische Wahrheit." Weiss then proceeds to tell the story of an infanticide, as a parallel to Meissner, the first volume of whose *Skizzen* had appeared in Leipzig, 1778. The last story but one in this collection has for its title the opening words of the above article, and is said to be based on an actual event in Brandenburg. A detailed review of Meissner's book may be found in Part II of the *Anhang* to Vols. 25-36 of the *Allg. Deu. Bibl.*, p. 718 ff.

In the *Journal von und für Deutschland*, 1786, II, 53, there is another "Beytrag zur Geschichte des Kindermordes, nebst der Liste der Gebornen und Gestorbenen in den Mecklenburg Schwerinischen Stadtpfarreyen." This is anonymous. The same journal, 1785, I, 500, gives a tabulation of the illegitimate children born in the various provinces of Prussia during the years 1783 and 1784, the headings of the columns being Male, Female, Town, Country. The totals are 7221 for the year 1783 and 9064 for 1784.

Posselts wissenschaftliches Magazin für Aufklärung, I, 39, has

an article entitled: "Kann die Todesstrafe auf den Kindermord ohne Verletzung der göttlichen Gesetze abgeschafft werden, und ist es rathsam, dieses zu thun oder nicht?" In Vol. III of the same magazine, pp. 129 and 240, are two other contributions: "Ueber die besten und ausführbarsten Mittel, den Kindermord zu verhüten." A similar one is found in *Amalthea für Wissenschaft und Geschmack*, II. Band, Erstes Stück. In the *Braunschweigisches Journal* for 1789, 2. Stück, is an article by S. Heinecke: "Ueber die besten Mittel, dem Kindermorde zu wehren, und zugleich die Sittlichkeit unter der gemeinen Volksklasse zu vermehren." Similarly, the *Magazin für gemeinnützige, interessante und unterhaltende Lectüre* for 1785, I. Theil, has an article "Vom Kindermord," which is reviewed in *Schotts Bibliothek*, 1786, II, 412. In the *Deutsches gemeinnütziges Magazin*, 1787, I. Jahrg., 1. Quartal, there is a "Geschichte eines Kindermords, nebst einigen allgemeinen Betrachtungen über diese Handlung, und deren Bestrafung," by Ch. U. Dtl. v. Eggers, the editor.

The journals just cited are all of a more or less popular character: at the opposite extreme is a Latin inaugural dissertation on this subject: *D. i. de Infanticidio a matribus in recens natos infantes commisso et quibusdam eius impediendi remediis, quant praes. J. Ph. Buchero prop. aut. Gli. Dn. Claver*. Rinteln, 1785, 38 pp. 4°. This was reviewed in *Schotts Bibliothek* 1786, II, 240 and in *Klübers kleine jurist. Bibl.* II, 5, 65.

In conclusion, I would call attention to Eschenburg's¹ review (in Part II, pp. 764 f., of the *Anhang* to Vols. 25-36 of the *Allgem. Deutsche Bibliothek*) of Wagner's *Kindermörderinn*, Leipzig, 1776, which Erich Schmidt, in his discussion of the contemporary opinion of this play, likewise failed to note. Eschenburg does not see how the first act could possibly be represented on the stage, and presumes that the author had hardly hoped to see his play acted, but had intended to present a series of tableaux portraying the dangers of luxury to the middle class, and the terrible consequences of a mother's carelessness or thoughtlessness.

"Und aus diesem Gesichtspunkte betrachtet, muss man dem

¹ The review is signed *Mo*. As this sign is ascribed to Eschenburg in the case of an almost simultaneous review in Vol. XXXIII, pp. 496-498, of the *Allg. Deu. Bibl.* (Cf. Meyer, *Goethe-Bibliothek*, No. 187), his authorship of the present review is hardly open to question.

Verf. allerdings sehr viel Verdienst zugestehen, sehr viel Talent in der treuen Nachahmung der Natur, in Handlung, Gesinnung und Sprache der theilnehmenden Personen. Freylich sind die Farben oft zu stark aufgetragen; die Züge oft zu kühn, und, wir möchten fast sagen, gar zu natürlich; aber man schätzt in der Malerey auch den Ostadischen Geschmack."

Karl Lessing's adaptation: *Die Kindermörderinn, so wie sie abgeändert auf dem deutschen Theater zu Berlin im Jenner 1777. aufgeführt worden ist. Berlin, bey Himbürg*, is declared a failure:

"Der Umänderer hätte gar wohl voraus sehen können, dass es ein missliches, fruchtloses Unternehmen sey, so ganz heterogene Dinge mit einander vertauschen, eins in das andere umschmelzen wollen. Gerade so sonderbar, als wenn man ein Niederländisches Gemälde in ein Italiänisches umzuzeichnen und umzukoloriren versuchen wollte. Die besten, originellsten Züge werden dabey verwischt; alles Eigenthümliche verschwindet; und man weiss am Ende nicht mehr, was für ein Zwitterwerk man vor sich hat. Ganz ist diess zwar der Fall bey dieser Umänderung nicht: denn sie ist nicht ohne Schonung gemacht, und sehr vieles ist ganz unverändert beybehalten; aber das Weggelassene ist nicht allemal das Schlechtere, und noch seltener das, was dafür in die Stelle gesetzt ist, das Bessere. Und im Grunde ist viel stehen geblieben, wodurch die Aufführung verhindert werden musste."

W. KURRELMEYER.

Beliefs and Superstitions of the Pennsylvania Germans, by EDWIN MILLER FOGEL, PH. D. Philadelphia, Americana Germanica Press, 1915. iv + 387 pp.

Philologists have long since recognized that the dialect of the German settlers of Pennsylvania, far from being unworthy of consideration as the bastard jargon of an uncultured population, well repays careful study as containing many dialectical forms which have disappeared in Germany. The first monograph on the dialect was that of Professor Haldemann of the University of Pennsylvania, read as a paper before the Philological Society of London and subsequently (1872) printed in Philadelphia. Since then many articles and papers on Pennsylvania German have appeared, the more important of which are the handbooks of Rauch (Philadelphia, 1880) and Gibbons (New York, 1882); M. D. Learned, *The Pennsylvania German Dialect*, Baltimore, 1886; H. H. Reich-